



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

plan than a liability bill. Four members representing labor, while conceding the wisdom of the compensation enactment, were unable to agree with the members representing the employers as to the terms of the bill." (*The Report of the Employers' Liability Commission of the State of Illinois*. Chicago, 317 Fisher Building. 1910. Pp. 317.)

DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS

Industries and Commerce

The *Address of President Taft before the National Conservation Congress*, September 5, 1910 (Washington, pp. 22), is a comprehensive analysis of the public land question, clearly showing the relations of the several parts of the subject. The discussion is treated under the heads of agricultural lands, mineral lands, forest lands, coal lands, oil and gas lands, and phosphate lands. The *Thirty-First Annual Report of the Director of the Geological Survey* (Washington, 1910, pp. 131), also contains data showing the progress in land classification, with an account of investigations in regard to water resources. Further information in regard to the public coal lands may be found in the report of the majority of the congressional committee, appointed to investigate the charges made against Secretary Ballinger. (Washington, pp. 87.)

The Superintendent of Documents has issued the third edition of a price list of United States public documents relating to *Lands*, and more particularly to the public domain. (Washington, pp. 39.)

Forest Service Circular 181 (Washington, Department of Agriculture, pp. 7), gives statistical data in regard to *The Consumption of Firewood in the United States*. The returns are based upon special inquiries sent to 48,000 correspondents. It is estimated that of 20 billion cubic feet of wood of all kinds used each year, seven billion cubic feet is firewood.

The Daily Consular Trade Report, for January 19, 1911 (Washington, Bureau of Manufactures), contains an eight-page article on the cotton industry of Great Britain, in which there are notes in regard to methods of marketing and shipment, and the Brookland agreement for settling disputes as to wages.

The history of the *Grain Movement in the Great Lakes Region* is summarized by Mr. Frank Andrews in Bulletin 81 of the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Agriculture (Washington, Nov. 18,

1910, pp. 83). Comparisons as to production and trade movements are made for a period of forty years. Freight rates are also analyzed.

There has just appeared a belated printing of a verbatim report of the legislative debate and hearings held by the legislature of Illinois from February to May, 1909, in a document entitled, *Deep Water Way Debate: Forty-Sixth General Assembly, Illinois, 1909* (Springfield, 1910, pp. 387).

The investigation of trade conditions abroad, authorized by the Act of June 17, 1910, has been carried into South America. Special Agents Series of the Bureau of Manufacturers, No. 43, is entitled *The Trade Development in Argentina*, by J. D. Whelpley (Washington, 1911, pp. 94). Special attention is given to the meat production of Argentina.

The Bureau of the Census has issued Bulletin 110, *Supply and Distribution of Cotton*, for the year ending August 31, 1910 (Washington, 1911, pp. 32), the sixth of this series, presenting the usual statistics in regard to the domestic crop, and containing chapters on the world's consumption of cotton, and the relative importance of the leading textile fibres.

Corporations

The increasing scope of the supervision by the Interstate Commerce Commission is seen in the *First Annual Report of the Statistics of Express Companies in the United States*, for the year ending June 30, 1909. (Washington, 1911, pp. 82). Revenues and expenses have been adjusted to rules of accounting similar to those prescribed for other agencies of transportation. Apart from the tables, there is a discussion of accounting rules, the character of express service, operating contracts, and computation of charges. In the appendix is an account of the history, organization, and capitalization of express companies.

The *Synopsis of the Proceedings of the Railroad and Warehouse Commission of Illinois*, from July to September, 1910 (Springfield), contains the decision of the commission in regard to rates charged by express companies (pp. 9-11). Rates are held to be excessive and in many instances discriminatory. Terminal charges should be uniform, irrespective of distance; and transportation charges should be based upon weight and distance.

Complaint Docket, No. 1001, before the same commission gives a decision affecting coal rates (November 28, 1910). The commission

held that the rate should represent actual cost, six per cent upon the investment, and an additional sum covering the actual annual interest upon bonds sold for the purpose of properly building and equipping the roads. The railroads were, therefore, granted an increase of seven cents per ton, instead of ten cents asked for.

The *Annual Report of the Attorney General of the United States* (Washington, 1910, pp. 91), summarizes the prosecutions of the year under the Anti-Trust law. Questions relating to public lands occupy more than the usual space.

The *Eleventh Annual Report of the Corporation Commission of North Carolina* (Raleigh, 1910, pp. 702), for the year 1909, contains a compilation of state banking laws, freight and export tariffs, a digest of complaints and decisions, and a statement of assessments for taxation of the property of public service corporations.

In 1909 the legislature of Michigan gave to the state jurisdiction over the conditions under which public service corporations may issue stocks, bonds, and other securities. According to the *Third Annual Report of the Michigan Railroad Commission*, for 1909 (Lansing, 1910, pp. 1020), the opposition displayed at the time of the passage of the law, has now disappeared. Securities are said to find a more ready sale and to bring a better price.

On January 19, the Public Service Commission of the Second District, New York, held a conference with representatives of electric railways to consider the question of accidents. The proceedings are reported in the *Electric Railway Journal*, for January 28, 1911.

In the *Daily Consular Trade Report*, January 25, 1911, is an eighth report on the "The Legal Status of Trusts in Germany." Appended is a brief bibliography.

In the *Report of the Railroad Commission of Wisconsin*, for 1910 (Madison, 1911), comment is made on the stock and bond law, as construed by the Supreme Court in the case of the State ex rel. Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie Railroad Company vs. Railroad Commission (137 Wis. 80). According to this decision the commission is limited in its inquiry to determining simply the legal competency of the corporation to issue securities in question. As the wider inquiry of financial competency is denied, the commission recommends in the interest of investors an amendment of the law whereby a decision may be rendered as to whether the securities are reasonably required.

Labor

The *Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the United States Commissioner of Labor* is devoted to the subject of Workmen's Insurance and Compensation Systems in Europe. It presents a study of various systems, including insurance against accident, sickness, old age, invalidity and unemployment, as developed in eleven European countries. The first volume which will soon be ready for distribution contains chapters on Austria and Germany by Dr. Henry J. Harris, on Belgium by Dr. E. H. Lewinski-Corwin, and on Denmark by Dr. J. E. Pope. The second volume which is soon to follow will contain chapters on Great Britain by L. D. Clark; Italy, Russia, and Spain by Dr. I. M. Rubinow; Norway by Dr. J. E. Pope; and Sweden by H. O. Hanson. It will also contain original texts or translations of accident compensation laws which have been adopted up to the present time in all foreign countries.

A comprehensive account of the condition of woman and child workers engaged in the cotton textile industry is given in the recently issued report of Commissioner Charles P. Neill (published as Sen. Doc. No. 645, 61 Cong., 2 Sess.). The report which comprises over 1000 pages, was prepared under the direction of Special Agent Walter B. Palmer and Chief Editor Charles H. Verrill. This is the first part of the extensive investigation on the condition of woman and child wage-earners in the United States recently authorized by special act of Congress. The study covers the extent of child labor, violation of child labor laws, illiteracy and school attendance, hours of labor and earnings, sanitary conditions of mills, and family conditions of the workers.

The *Report of the Department of Labour of Canada*, for the year ending March 31, 1910 (Ottawa, 1910, pp. 225-231), furnishes a useful working tool for the library of labor literature. It summarizes the varied investigations of the department and includes a list of all the special articles published in the *Labour Gazette*. The operation of the Industrial Disputes Act of 1907 receives special attention, and with it is an account of proposed legislation along similar lines in several of the American commonwealths. The *Appendix* gives detailed statements of proceedings under the Act.

The Commissioner of Industrial and Labor Statistics of Maine has endeavored to make a statistical study of the household servant problem. 1500 blanks were sent out to employers and 333 replies were received and tabulated. The questions covered scope of work,

employers, wages, privileges, training, nationality, etc. Generous extracts from letters from employers are printed, and though the results are indefinite, the report has considerable interest. (*Twenty-Fourth Annual Report*, Augusta, 1910.)

The report of the Senate Committee on Wages and Prices of Commodities has been supplemented by the publication of a *Topical Digest of Evidence*, submitted in the hearings held by the Committee (Washington, 1910, pp. xiv).

In Kansas, delegates of trade unions and labor organizations are called together once a year by authority of statute law (1910), to hold a meeting at the state capitol. Provision is made for representation according to membership in local organizations. The secretary is the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor. The proceedings of the last meeting, the *Twelfth Annual Convention of the State Society of Labor and Industry*, held February, 1910 (Topeka: Department of Labor, pp. 51), gives a list of the societies represented and reports of addresses and resolutions.

The Massachusetts Commission on the Inspection of Factories, Workshops, Mercantile Establishments and Other Buildings, was created by a legislative resolve in June, 1910, to carry out a comprehensive investigation of the subject of inspection in all its branches. The commission decided, however, to confine its work to the field of industrial inspection. Its report, submitted to the legislature in January, 1911, contains a searching criticism of the present system of industrial inspection, which the commission finds to be generally inefficient. The unique feature of this system is the separation of health and police functions, the former being assigned to the State Board of Health only, the latter to the District Police. The commission points out the disadvantages resulting from this division of authority and responsibility, and recommends the complete reorganization of the service under a single department. The bill drawn for this purpose provides for the establishment of an unpaid board of industrial inspection, of five members, to which are transferred all the powers and duties in this field now exercised by the State Board of Health and the District Police. The board is to appoint a chief commissioner and two deputy commissioners, one of whom shall have charge of the enforcement of laws relating to health, and the other, of general laws relating to the employment of labor. The number of inspectors appointed under the act is not to exceed fifty. Provision is also made for the appointment of a registrar of industrial

statistics. Besides its chief recommendation for the creation of a separate department of industrial inspection, the commission offers numerous suggestions for the improvement of the service.

The Chief Factory Inspector of Illinois, Mr. Edgar T. Davies (Springfield), has prepared separate reprints of the *Illinois Ten Hour Law and the Decision of the Supreme Court* sustaining its constitutionality; and also of the *Brief* of Samuel A. Harper, counsel for the Bureau.

The subject of employers' liability receives special consideration in the *Tenth Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labor of West Virginia, 1908-10* (Charleston, 1910, pp. 297). Chapter V (pp. 119-232) contains a summary of common law principles, followed by reprints of the statute laws of the several states.

In the *Twentieth Annual Report of the Chief Factory Inspector of Pennsylvania* (Harrisburg, 1910, pp. 50), it is noted that there is a trend toward a preference for girl employees under 16 years of age in industries open to girls. The number, however, of boys and girls employed under the 16 year age limit is considerably less than in 1905. Undigested data in regard to the new child labor law in Michigan may be found in the *First Annual Report of the Department of Labor of Michigan* (Lansing, 1910).

More descriptive is the account of the enforcement of the child labor law of South Carolina in the *First Annual Report of the Committee of Agriculture, Commerce and Industries* (Columbia, 1910, pp. 73).

A special investigation of child labor in Wisconsin is reported upon in the *Fourteenth Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labor and Industrial Statistics of Wisconsin* (Madison). This was based on the study of the condition of 4009 children under sixteen years of age, who were obliged to secure permits before engaging in employment. Tabulations are made for sex, age, health, education, earnings, fatigue, danger, moral environment, size of family to which child belongs, nativity of fathers, education of parents, and earnings of families. The physical consequences are not regarded as injurious, but the intellectual, moral and social results are considered to be seriously harmful.

The fifth volume of a series of reports dealing with the earnings and hours of labor of workpeople in the United Kingdom has been published by the Board of Trade. This report, *Agriculture* (London: Wyman, 1910, pp. xxvi, 58), is the third which has been published on

the wages, earnings, and conditions of employment of agricultural laborers; the first having related to the year 1898, and the second to 1902. It is based upon returns from 15,800 farmers.

For all classes of laborers combined the average annual earnings, and the corresponding weekly amounts, in the United Kingdom were as follows:

	Yearly	Weekly
England	\$232.37	\$4.46
Wales and Monmouthshire.....	227.75	4.38
Scotland	247.94	4.76
Ireland	142.10	2.74

Little change is shown in the average earnings as compared with those issued for 1902, but when compared with 1898 there appears to be in the case of England an increase of 5 per cent, and in the case of Scotland an increase of 8 per cent.

The following reports have previously been published dealing with earnings in 1906: *Textile Trades* (Cd. 4545); *Clothing Trades* (Cd. 4844); *Building and Woodworking Trades* (Cd. 5086); and *Public Utility Services* (Cd. 5196).

Money and Banking

The formation of National Currency Associations provides a new topic for the *Annual Report of the Comptroller of the Currency* (December 5, 1910; Washington). A new table (p. 61) shows the interest rates charged on loans and the average rate of interest paid as individual deposits.

The Treasury Department has issued a revised edition of *Information Respecting United States Bonds, Paper Currency, Coin, Production of Precious Metals, etc.*, under date of July 1, 1910 (Washington: Circular No. 52, pp. 99). The previous edition was published in 1908.

The National Monetary Commission has recently issued *Notes on the Postal Savings Bank Systems of the Leading Countries*. (Washington: Sen. Doc., No. 658, 61 Cong., 3 Sess., 1910, pp. 128.) It treats of their history and organization; the withdrawal of funds; statistics; and cost of administration; and includes reports from consuls on their operation.

The same commission has also published *Interviews on the Banking and Currency Systems of Canada* (Sen. Doc., No. 584, 61 Cong., 3

Sess., 1910, pp. 219). This consists of stenographic reports of interviews with nine Canadian bankers.

Among the reports already issued by the Immigration Commission is one on *Immigrant Banks*. (Washington: Sen. Doc. No. 381, 1910, pp. 167.) These have little capital or responsibility, for immigrant bankers, as a rule, are steamship ticket agents, or conduct some other business as well. Abuses have developed in connection with the transmission of money to Europe. It is estimated that \$275,000,000 was sent abroad in 1907 by aliens, and that one half of this passed through the hands of immigrant bankers.

The Bank Commissioner of Massachusetts in his *Annual Report for 1910* (Boston, 1911) devotes special attention to the development of savings life insurance. It is pointed out that "industrial" rates of life insurance companies have been considerably lowered since this new form of insurance was established. The enactment of legislation to legalize school savings banks is recommended.

Public Finance

The Illinois Special Tax Commission, which was appointed by Governor Deneen last spring, submitted its report on January 15. (*A Report on the Taxation and Revenue System of Illinois*, prepared by John A. Fairlie, Chief Clerk of the Commission, 1910, pp. xiv, 255.) The commission submits a digest of Illinois tax laws and decisions, and a report on the taxation and revenue systems of Illinois. The historical part was prepared by Professor Fairlie, and the digest of Illinois tax law decisions, by Messrs. Albert M. Kales and Elmer M. Liessman. The commission makes the following important recommendations looking towards the improvement of the state tax system.

1. That by an amendment to the Constitution, the legislature be authorized to classify personal property and tax such classes at different rates, or exempt the classes wholly or partially from taxation.

2. That the present board of equalization, composed of one elected member from each congressional district, together with the auditor of public accounts, *ex officio*, be discontinued, and a state tax commission of three appointed members, somewhat on the Wisconsin or Minnesota plan, be substituted in its place.

3. That the assessment of local property be entrusted to county officers throughout the state.

This report will be reviewed in a later number of the REVIEW.

REFORM OF TAXATION IN CALIFORNIA. At the November election 1910, the people of the State of California ratified a constitutional amendment providing for tax reform in that state. The vote stood "yes" 142,312, and "no" 96,492; a majority of 44,820 out of a total vote of 237,805.

This amendment provides a change in tax legislation which is probably greater than has ever been attempted at a single step in any state in the Union. It provides for the separation of state from local taxation by reserving for taxation by the state alone, the railroads and street railways, the car companies, the express companies, the telegraph and telephone companies, the light, heat and power companies, all "franchises" (which are so defined in California as to be identical with "the corporate excess"), also bank stock, less the value of real estate taxed locally. The public service corporations in the above list are to be taxed on the basis of gross receipts at rates varying from 4 per cent to 2 per cent according to the nature of the business. Railroads, railways, and light, heat and power companies are to pay 4 per cent, car companies 3 per cent, telegraph and telephone companies $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, and express companies 2 per cent. Bank stock is taxed 1 per cent on its book value, and "franchises" are taxable at 1 per cent on an assessed valuation. At the same time the state reserves the right to revert to the old *ad valorem* system.

The amendment removes from local taxation about \$340,000,000 of property now on the rolls, the total assessed valuation of taxable property in the state being about \$2,500,000,000. It raises the taxes to be paid by this class of property, and unearths enough other property not reached under the old law, so that altogether it has the effect of placing \$850,000,000 of taxable property in the place of the \$340,000,000.

The amendment is the result of six years of work by the State Commission on Revenue and Taxation, a temporary commission for this purpose, which is composed of the governor and members of the legislature and of which the professor of finance in the state university is secretary. Two years ago a similar amendment was defeated by the people.

Aside from the secret opposition of the corporations, whose taxes will be so heavily increased, the tax reform movement had to contend with the selfish interests of those localities which under the old system were unduly favored. One county, for example, which has nearly five hundred miles of railroad lines within its boundaries has been supporting its county government with very little expense

to local tax payers by virtue of the revenues from the taxation of the railroads, together with the State's contribution to her schools and other institutions. Some of the counties are to be aided by the State for a few years until they can adjust their finances to the new system. The corporations affected are naturally using every endeavor to have the definition of "operative property," which is considered to be covered by the gross earnings tax and hence exempt from local taxation, made as broad as possible.

One feature of the new system is the absence of any elastic element, except the recourse to the old *ad valorem* taxes, which it is hoped to avoid. This, until the exact yield of the new taxes is known, makes the work of the "ways and means" committees difficult, and has filled with dismay the hearts of those legislators who seek new and possibly doubtful appropriations. In past years these statesmen would have been held in check by the governor's probable veto of any measure likely to raise the tax rate; now they can only rail against the "new system."

C. C. P.

A series of pamphlets on the tax laws of Ohio has been published by the Auditor of State. These relate to *The Assessment of Personal Property* by county and state officers (pp. 47, with a folded table showing the valuation of railroads); *Assessment by Township and Ward Assessors* (pp. 49), and *Reappraisement of Real Property* (pp. 16). The Tax Laws of Virginia have also been published as a separate (Richmond, 1910, pp. 189).

Statistics in regard to the federal corporation tax are to be found in the *Annual Report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue* (Washington, 1910, pp. 63-74). Corporations are classified by collection districts and by states, under the character of business, as public service, manufacturing, mercantile and miscellaneous corporations.

In a speech delivered before the Association of Commerce of Chicago, December 3, 1910, Professor Henry C. Emery outlined the duties of *The Tariff Board and Its Work* (Washington, Sen. Doc. No. 700, pp. 19).

The Secretary of the Treasury in his *Annual Report* for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1910 (Washington, pp. 125), notes with regret that the "budget idea" has made little progress during the past year. The recommendation that gold certificates be issued against foreign coin and bullion is repeated.

"The *Second Annual Report of the Statistics of Municipal Finances* of Massachusetts Cities for 1908, published by the Bureau of Statistics (Boston, 1910, pp. lii, 323), notes that although progress is being made in securing uniform accounting of towns, it is still impossible to secure a complete compilation. The volume includes a useful chapter on "Definitions of Terms" employed in municipal accounts.

The Comptroller of the State of New York in his *Annual Report*, for 1910 (Albany, 1911, pp. 248, 37), discusses the probable effect of the increase in the inheritance tax law enacted in 1909. It is believed that on account of the severity of the progressive rates, wealthy citizens will change their domiciles, and that not only will the state lose the estimated increase, but also a part which in all probability would have been paid at the lower rate, thus resulting in a net loss. Foreign capital seeking investment through banking houses is also being diverted from New York to be placed in securities of other states.

The Chicago Bureau of Public Efficiency, an organization similar in character to the Bureau of Municipal Research in New York, devotes what is apparently its first report to a consideration of the budget of Cook County, the work being undertaken at the instance of the Board of Commissioners of the County. The report criticizes and suggests changes in the form of the budget, the method of preparing estimates, the passing of the budget, and the method of administering it. It also contains a reclassification of the expenditures of the County in accordance with the form of budget proposed by the Bureau.

Dr. Ralph H. Hess of the University of Minnesota contributes two chapters to the *Second Biennial Report of the Minnesota Tax Commission* on The Cost of Government of Minnesota and an Analysis of Municipal Receipts and Disbursements (pp. 229-304). For state expenditures the per capita cost is \$3.36; for county or township, \$8.75; and city or village, \$7.26. If to this is added \$9.84 representing the pro rata share of net federal expenditure imputed to Minnesota on the basis of population, a total of \$29.21 is obtained.

Demography and Statistics

The formal publications of the Thirteenth Census will probably consist of the following four classes:

- (1) Bulletins of a special character.
- (2) Bulletins of a general character.
- (3) State compendiums.

(4) The complete report.

The bulletins of a special character will be those relating to some special subject; such as a particular branch of manufacturing, or population topic as sex, conjugal condition, illiteracy, and the like.

The bulletins of a general character will consist of two classes, those giving the figures for the United States as a whole and the individual states in comparison, and those giving the more detailed figures for an individual state. In each of these classes there will be bulletins relative to the three subjects covered by the Thirteenth Census: Population, Agriculture, and Manufactures, Mines and Quarries.

On December 5, 1910, Senator Dillingham transmitted to Congress the final reports of the Immigration Commission. These with documents previously submitted will make about forty printed volumes varying from four hundred to nine hundred pages each. In the main the reports are based on original data collected by the Commission.

The reports on *Steerage conditions, Importation and harboring of women for immoral purposes, Immigrant banks, The immigration situation in Canada*, and a partial report on *Changes in bodily form of descendants of immigrants* have been already issued. In addition two volumes containing abstracts or reviews of the various reports have been published, thus bringing together in an easily accessible form the more essential features of the complete reports, and making practicable a wider circulation of the Commission's findings than otherwise would be possible. The complete work will probably not be available until about July 1, 1911. The reports will be published as Senate Documents.

In the *Report of the Commissioner-General of Immigration*, for 1910 (Washington, 1910, pp. 248), further restrictive legislation is advocated. The statistical tables have been revised, so as to show data regarding immigration to the Philippines. A new table is also included to show the amount of head tax collected on account of aliens who entered during the year. The appendix contains a draft of a proposed new immigration act.

According to the *Annual Report of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor* (Washington, 1910), the Bureau of the Census is planning to compile statistics with regard to the fecundity of the population as indicated by the number of children born, and the number of children living, for women of different classes, in comparison with their age and the duration of marriage.

Bulletin 109 of the Bureau of the Census presents the final count of the *Population by States and Territories*, for 1910 (Washington, pp. 7). A map graphically represents the per cent of increase in the several states.

Oklahoma has made a beginning in the publication of her vital statistics. According to the *First Biennial Report of the Public Health Department* (Oklahoma City, Nov. 1, 1910, pp. 349), 60 per cent of the births and 80 per cent of the deaths are recorded.

The Finance Commission of Boston has recently presented *A Communication to the Mayor and City Council in Relation to the Abolition of the Registry Department and the Transfer of its Powers and Duties to the Health Department* (Boston, 1910, pp. 19). A recent investigation made by Mr. Frederick S. Crum, of the Prudential Insurance Company, employed by the commission shows that there were many discrepancies in the reports of the Registry and Health Departments in the tables from 1872 to 1908; the two reports agree in four, and disagree in the other 32 years. Mr. Crum's report is a serviceable contribution to the technique of administrative statistics.

In *Nature* (London), December 15, 1910, is a criticism of the statistics published in the annual report of the Chief Inspector of Mines, entitled *Mines and Quarries*. (London: Home Office; Colonial and Foreign Statistics, Part V. Cd. 5284.) Note is made that the value of comparative statistics is impaired because of lack of general agreement as to definitions; for example, in the United Kingdom a fatal accident is included in the statistical returns if death occurs within twelve months; in Belgium, within thirty days; while in Germany, death must be immediate. There are also variations in determining output; in France the return represents vendible coal plus colliery consumption; while in Germany, a certain allowance is made for wastage. Different rules are also found in the enumeration of persons employed. According to the critic, the labor involved in the preparation of this report is to a large extent wasted, and must be so until radical improvements are made.

The *Deutsches Statistisches Zentralblatt*, published by B. G. Teubner in Leipsic and Berlin, and just beginning its third year, summarizes the contents of all German statistical publications and treats also such publications in other languages as deal with statistical theory and method or with international statistics. It appears quarterly and costs eight marks a year. The editors are the directors of the Statistical Offices of Saxony and of Dresden and a member of the Im-

perial Statistical Office. Thus the three main sources of German official statistics are represented.

Insurance and Pensions

THE PENSIONING OF SUPERANNUATED EMPLOYEES IN THE FEDERAL SERVICE. The matter of providing a system for the pensioning of superannuated employees in the Federal service is one which is receiving a great deal of attention by the Federal Government. The President and all of the heads of the Executive Departments have declared themselves strongly in favor of the establishment of some system by which this may be accomplished and various bills are now pending in Congress looking to this end.

The Committee on Department Methods created by President Roosevelt, or the Keep Commission as it is popularly known from the name of its chairman, made a careful investigation of this matter and reported to the President in 1908 its conclusion that a system for the retirement of employees in the classified civil service of the Government should be established. In investigating this matter it conferred with the National Civil Service Reform League and the United States Civil Service Retirement Association. A draft of a bill embodying its conclusions accompanied the report. In this report Mr. Herbert D. Brown was given the credit for originating the central idea of the plan and for the large amount of labor involved in working out its details and figures. Mr. Brown has continued his investigations of the subject and, under the direction of the Commissioner of Labor, has prepared three reports bearing on this subject, all of which were published as Senate documents in 1910. The titles of these three reports are: "Civil Service Retirement, Great Britain and New Zealand," (Sen. Doc. No. 290, 61 Cong., 2 Sess.); "Civil Service Retirement, New South Wales, Australia," (Sen. Doc. No. 420, 61 Cong., 2 Sess.); "Pension Fund for Municipal Employees and Railroad Pension Systems in the United States," (Sen. Doc. No. 427, 61 Cong., 2 Sess.).

Mr. Brown has also made a more elaborate and general study of the whole problem of pensioning Government employees, the results of which study are embodied in a report recently made to Congress. This report is not yet printed but probably will be, and it is to be hoped in such a form as to be available for general distribution.

The earlier schemes were elaborated with but slight attention to the actuarial principles involved. The reports of Mr. Brown though not

going as far in the way of presenting the actuarial factors of the problem as is desirable, yet contain a wealth of material and will enable Congress to act much more intelligently than has been possible in the past.

PERIODICALS

Theory

DAVENPORT, H. J. *Social productivity versus private acquisition*. Quart. Journ. Econ., Nov., 1910.

A brilliantly written paper, in which the genesis of the notion of production as a mechanical process and of the distinction between land and capital is imputed to mercantilistic, physiocratic, and common law preconceptions. The current view of the rôle of capital is held to be optimistic rather than scientific. Private capital is essentially acquisitive rather than productive, and includes all costly or vendible instruments of acquisition.

DEL VECCHIO, G. *Teoria della esportazione del capitale*. Giorn. d. Econ. Ag., 1910.

A study of the ways in which the international movement of capital takes place, and of the principles that govern the movement.

EULENBERG, E. *Naturgesetze und sociale Gesetze*. Archiv f. Sozialw., Nov., 1910.

The first installment of an elaborate discussion thus far dealing only with the logical notion of natural laws.

FEILBOGEN, S. *L'évolution des idées économiques et sociales en France depuis 1870*. Rev. d'Hist. Doct. Econ., Nos. 3-4, 1910.

This concluding installment deals with the work of Cauwès, Gide, the followers of Le Play, and the Catholic school.

GERARD, M. L. *L'augmentation de la capacité de production de l'industrie et son rôle dans les crises périodiques*. Rev. Econ. Intern., Dec., 1910.

Crises originate in those industries which furnish the material equipment of production to other industries.

HANEY, L. H. *Rent and price: "alternative use" and "scarcity value."* Quart. Journ. Econ., Nov., 1910.

Discusses the doctrine of Mill and some later writers that the poorest land used for any one purpose may command a price-determining rent on account of its availability for some other purpose. Concludes that in the long run this is not true, since all products may be reduced to the common denominator of utility. Even through short periods the determination of price precedes the transfer of land from one use to another. The so-called "scarcity value" of land does not enter into price, for cost of production may be measured at the intensive margin.

JAGER, G. *Sinn und Wert der Materialismus*. Jahrb. f. Gesetzg. No. 4, 1910.

Concluding installment discussing the materialist philosophy of history, and some philosophical aspects.